

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/072,150

Examiner

Eric M. Blount

Applicant(s)

HENRY ET AL.

Art Unit

2636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 12/27/05.
2. ☐ The allowed claim(s) is/are _____.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Office acknowledges the changes made to the claims by applicant; all objections to the claims have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2-7, 9-13, and 15-23 are currently pending in the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 2-7, 9-13, and 15-23 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

a. As for independent **claim 1**, the prior art of record fails to sufficiently describe or suggest an interchangeable sensor head component for a monitoring tool wherein an electrical connector portion is configured to establish an electrical connection with a monitoring tool, at least one electrical component is connected to the electrical connector and configured to perform a function, and a memory device accessible through the electrical connector is configured to store and provide operational information to the interchangeable sensor head component. The interchangeable sensor head component is further configured to monitor at least one parameter of an accessory chosen from a wiper device, stirring device, and a shutter device.

b. Regarding independent **claims 13 and 21**, the prior art does not disclose an interchangeable sensor head component for use with a monitoring tool that comprises an elongated housing portion configured to include an electrical component and a base portion connectable to the elongated housing portion and

configured to engage and disengage with a port. At least one radially compressive sealing device is disposed around the base portion and is configured to expand within a specially configured cavity upon insertion of the base portion in the port and generate a force to prevent removal of the base portion from the port.

c. As for independent **claim 22**, the prior does not show an interchangeable sensor head component wherein a sensor is configured to monitor conductivity, wherein an elongated housing portion is configured to include first and second substantially parallel surfaces with a plurality of electrodes disposed on each of the first and second surfaces. The first and second surfaces are further oriented at an angle other than perpendicular to a longitudinal axis for the elongated housing.

d. Regarding independent **claim 23**, the prior art of record fails to sufficiently describe or suggest an interchangeable sensor head component comprising and elongated housing portion configured to include an electrical component and a base portion connectable to the elongated housing portion where the base portion is configured to engage and disengage with a port through linear force. Further, the elongated housing and the included electronic component comprise an accessory.

These along with further limitations set forth by the claims and all of the claims which depend therefrom, render the application allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric M. Blount whose telephone number is (571) 272-2973. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eric M. Blount
Examiner
Art Unit 2636


JEFFERY HOPSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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